RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 2nd May, 2005/12 Vaisakha, 1927 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*521.[The questioner Shri B.J. Panda was absent. For answer *vide* page 28].

Extension of Mid-day Meal Scheme

*522. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought more grants to extend the Mid-day Meal Scheme upto the tenth standard;

(b) if so, the amount of additional grants sought for;

(c) the number of children to be benefited as a result thereof; and

(d) the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Sir, regarding the questions that I have put, technically speaking, I am satisfied with the answer. But I have a supplementary.

In 2001-02, the Ministry of Human Resource Development had accumulated arrears, payable to the Food Corporation of India, to the tune of crores of rupees on account of foodgrains supplied by the FCI for the

Mid-day Meal Scheme, and the FCI had to discontinue the foodgrains supply to the Mid -day Meal Scheme to put pressure on the HRD Ministry to pay up. A public interest litigation was filed in the Apex Court. Though the FCI had an air-tight claim, the Court, on compassionate ground, considering school-going children's nutrition and hunger, ordered resumption of foodgrains supply by the FCI. I want to know whether, presently, the HRD Ministry promptly settles the claims of the FCI for the supply of foodgrains to the Mid-day Meal Scheme.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, so far as the present Scheme is concerned, there is no such hiatus that has come to our knowledge. Whatever happened in the past, we are trying to see that it is sorted out. At present, there is nothing like that.

SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Sir, the Planning Commission has asked the States to earmark 15 per cent of the Central assistance under PMGRY for meeting the cooking expenses under the Mid-day Meal Scheme. Is it being excluded by the State?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, that component has now been included in the Mid-day Meal Scheme that we are implementing and it has been raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 2.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tamil Nadu has been implementing the Mid-day Meal Scheme for the school-going children for the past 35 years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the assistance given by the Centre to this massive programme. Considering the fact that Tamil Nadu is a pioneer State in implementing this Scheme, will the Central Government come forward to bear the entire cost of this Scheme?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I may point out that this extension of the Mid-day Meal Scheme refers to the secondary stage and the answer is to that question. In the case of primary stage, I think, the Government of India has made itself very clear.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that the Mid-day Meal Scheme was introduced with great expectations. Although my question is not strictly dealing with Karnataka, I would still like to ask, based on the current assessment, in which of the States the Minister thinks that the Mid-day Meal Scheme has taken off. I would like to know whether he is prepared to devote greater amount of managerial and financial resources to get this Scheme off the ground in those laggard States.

Which are the laggard States where the Mid-day Meal Scheme is not making an impact?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: It would be unfair to call any State 'laggard'. So far as the present scheme is concerned, all the States are showing enthusiasm and, I think, we should bear with them. That is all I can say.

†**श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी:** सर, मंत्री जी अवेयर होंगे कि काफी जगह पर मिड डे मील स्कीम से, एक तो शिक्षा का नुकसान हुआ है, बड़े पैमाने पर टीचर्स और स्टूडेंट्स, सुबह से ही प्याज काटने और सब्जी बनाने में लग जाते हैं। दूसरे बहुत जगह से ये वाकयात सुनने में आते हैं कि बच्चे यह खाना खाकर बीमार हो जाते हैं। आपके दिमाग में कोई स्कीम है कि स्टेट्स में इस तरह के मॉडर्नाइज्ड, मैकेनाइज्ड प्लांट्स लगाए जाएं, जहां पर इस तरह का न्यूट्रिसियस मील बनाया जा सके, ताकि वह दो-चार-छः दिन तक चल सके और उसका डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन इस प्रकार से किया जाए जिस प्रकार ब्रेड का डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन किया जाता है और दूसरी चीजों का किया जाता है। यदि इस तरह से मैकेनाइज्ड सिस्टम किया जाए तो इससे पढ़ाई का नुकसान भी कम होगा और न्यूट्रिसियस खाना भी मिल सकेगा। क्या इसके लिए आप कोई इस तरह की स्कीम सोच रहे हैं?

†**شری شاہد صدیقی:** سر، منتری اویئر ہوں گے کہ کافی جگہ مڈ ڈے اسکیم سے ایک تو تعلیم کا نقصان ہوا ہے بڑے پیمانے پر، ٹیچرس اور اسٹوڈینٹ صبح سے ہی پیاز کاٹنے اور سبزی بنانے میں لگ جاتے ہیں۔ دوسرے بہت جگہ سے یہ واقعات سننے میں آتے ہیں کہ بچے یہ کھانا کھا کر بیمار ہو جاتے ہیں۔ آپ کے دماغ میں کوئی اسکیم ہے کہ اسٹیٹس میں اس طرح کے ماڈرنائز، میکنائزڈ پلانٹس لگائے جائیں، جہاں پر اس طرح کا نیوٹریسیس میل بنایا جا سکے۔ تاکہ وہ دو، چار، چھ دن تک چل سکے۔ اور اس کا ڈسٹری بیوشن اس طرح سے کیا جائے جس طرح بریڈ کا ڈسٹری بیوشن کیا جاتا ہے اور دوسری چیزوں کا کیا جاتا ہے۔ اگر اس طرح سے میکنائزڈ سسٹم کیا جائے تو اس سے پڑھائی کا نقصان بھی ہوگا اور نیوٹریسیس کھانا بھی مل سکے گا۔ کیا اس کے لئے آپ کوئی اس طرح کی اسکیم سوچ رہے ہیں؟

श्री अर्जुन सिंह: सभापति महोदय, यह स्कीम तो बेसिकली स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स चला रही है। अगर इस प्रकार की कहीं समस्या खड़ी होती है और ऐसा कोई सुझाव आता है तो हम उस पर जरूर विचार कर सकते हैं, लेकिन ऐसी कोई योजना, हर स्टेट में करने की नहीं है।

---

†Transliteration of Urdu Script.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, no doubt, foodgrains are supplied by Government agencies like the FCI, etc. for the Mid-day Meal Scheme. But there is lack of infrastructure like community kitchen with all necessary utensils, fuel, water and separate covered kitchen, more so, with regular cook so as to give the students freshly cooked food. As a matter of fact, students fall sick because of stale food. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has given Central assistance for such infrastructure to Karnataka and other States; if not, whether the Government will give assistance for infrastructure to the States from this year itself.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, all the costing was taken into account when this was raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 2. Now, if something has gone beyond Rs. 2, we will examine what the situation is, and only then can I say anything.

SHRI R.K. ANAND: Sir, a number of States have not even started implementing the Mid-day Meal Scheme. I would like to know what the Government is doing about it. Like, Jharkhand has not even started it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is specifically interested in Jharkhand.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I know the special attention of the hon. Member to Jharkhand, which is a very welcome thing. The point is, unless we are specifically informed as to the reasons why it has not taken off, as I said, I don't want to approach the States' efforts with a view to bringing them in categories of laggard and all that. But we will find out why Jharkhand has not taken off.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 523 ...(*Interruptions*).

श्री वी॰ हनुमंत राव: सर, यह क्वेश्चन बहुत इम्पोर्टेन्ट है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: मुझे भी मालूम है कि इम्पोर्टेन्ट है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री वी॰ हनुमंत राव: प्लीज सर, एस॰ सी॰ लेडीज ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप बैठिए, मैं जवाब दे देता हूं। ...(व्यवधान)... मेरी सुन लीजिए, यह बहुत बड़ा है। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज़ टेक योर सीट्स ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज़ टेक योर सीट्स। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नंदी येल्लैया: *

श्री सभापति: छुआछूत का कोई झगड़ा नहीं है। इस संबंध में आप बोलना चाहेंगे तो मैं आपको एलाऊ नहीं करूंगा और यह रिकार्ड पर भी नहीं जाएगा। ...(व्यवधान)... यदि आप बिना मेरी अनुमति के बोलेंगे तो यह रिकार्ड पर नहीं जाएगा। आप बैठ जाइए। ...(व्यवधान)...अगर आप चाहते हैं कि हाफ एन ऑवर डिसकशन हो तो लिखकर दे दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)... यह रिकार्ड पर नहीं जा रहा है ...(व्यवधान)... हाफ एन ऑवर डिसकशन चाहते हैं तो लिखकर दीजिए ... (व्यवधान)... आप बैठ जाइए ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी: *

श्री सभापति: मैं कह रहा हूं कि आप मुझे लिखकर दीजिए।

*523. [*The questioner (Shrimati S. G. Indira) was absent. For answer vide* page 29].

Promotion of Urdu language in Bihar

*524. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Urdu is second language in Bihar;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to promote Urdu in the State;

(c) whether Government are aware that examination papers of different State level examinations are not made available in Urdu; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the Government of Bihar the following steps have been taken by the State to promote the Urdu language:

(i) A separate Urdu Directorate has been constituted under the Department of Raj Bhasha by the Government of Bihar.

*Not recorded.